

(b) introducing the fluid (21) into the tank means (30);

(c) providing a filter media (11), buoyant in water, for filtering predetermined matter (16) out of the fluid (21);

(d) causing the filter media to pack relatively tightly in a filter zone (19) in the tank means (30);

(e) flowing the fluid through the filter zone (19) where predetermined matter (16) in the fluid (21) becomes trapped in the filter media;

(f) flowing the filtered fluid out of the tank means (30);

(g) conveying the filter media (11) and trapped predetermined matter (16) through a vertical tube from the filter zone (19) to a quiet zone (15) where the predetermined matter (16) moves away from the filter zone (19) and the filter media (11) move in the direction of the filter zone (19); [and]

(h) allowing the filter media (11) to move from the quiet zone (15) to a mixing zone (18) where the filter media (11) mixes with predetermined matter (16) in the fluid (21) being filtered;

(i) allowing the filter media to move above the mixing zone and out of the fluid, wherein:

at least a portion of the fluid is introduced into the tank means in the vertical tube, and the portion of the fluid introduced into the tank means in the vertical tube draws fluid, filter media which has moved out of the fluid, and particulates into the vertical tube and conveys the fluid, filter media, and particulates into the quiet zone, such that the filter media is in constant movement.

*29* 16. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the filter media (11) and trapped predetermined matter (16) are continuously conveyed from the filter zone (19) to the quiet zone (15) while fluid is being filtered.

*30* 17. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the trapped predetermined matter (16) drops to the bottom of the tank means (30) in the quiet zone (15).

*4* 18. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the predetermined matter (16) comprises particulates.

*5* 19. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the tank means includes a plurality of effluent means; and the effluent means are cleaned without stopping fluid flow through the tank means.

*16* 20. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the tank means includes a plurality of individual compartments which are not in fluid communication with one another.

*7* 21. (amended) The method of claim ~~15~~, wherein:

[A method of filtering fluid, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a tank means (30) for containing a volume of fluid (21);

(b) introducing the fluid (21) into the tank means (30);

(c) providing a filter media (11) for filtering predetermined matter (16) out of the fluid (21);

(d) causing the filter media to pack relatively tightly in a filter zone (19) in the tank means (30);

(e) flowing the fluid through the filter zone (19) where